

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

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25X1 1. [] Met with Mr. Frank Slatinshek, Assistant Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, who told me that as has been announced in the press, the Nedzi Intelligence Subcommittee will begin hearings on the problem of proper classification and handling of Government information involving the national security as soon as the Congress returns. The Committee will also consider H.R. 9853 which was jointly introduced by Chairman Hebert and Representative Les Arends (R., Ill.) to amend the National Security Act to provide for the establishment of a national commission on the classification and protection of information. A request has been mailed to the Agency and other Executive components requesting comments on H.R. 9853. In brief, Mr. Slatinshek said he would appreciate such background information as we can provide preferably in loose-leaf notebook form concerning classification and handling of Government information involving the National Security Act and the "Espionage Act." I briefed Mr. Slatinshek on the following items of current intelligence:

25X6 [] Soviet OSA-class missile boats for Cuba; North Vietnamese road construction; Laos; Soviet replacement of Indian Air Force aircraft; Soviet increase in numbers of naval vessels in the Indian Ocean; SS-NX-8 naval ballistic missile testing and detonation of underground nuclear device.

25X1 2. [] Met with Mr. Pat Holt, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, in response to his request of yesterday and told him that the matter of the seizure of the Bahama Lines vessels, Layla Express and Johnny Express, and Premier Castro's statements in his 23 December speech concerning Captain Jose Villa Diaz' detention is outside Agency authority and that request for briefing should be made directly to the State Department. I told Mr. Holt that the Agency had no current connection with these vessels or Captain Diaz and that there has been no prior connection with the Babun Brothers, owners of the Bahama Lines. Mr. Holt was most appreciative and said he would contact the Department because of Committee interest in the fanfare attached to the release of the crewmen on the part of both the government of Cuba and the government of Panama.

SECRET